



International School of Kenya Grade 11 IB Student and Parent FAQs & Answers

(updated on 21 May 2020)

The IB continues to update their [Covid 19 website](#) page with developing news and actions that are being taken. The IB has announced that there will be no increase in the IB fees for 2021.

Our assumptions at this stage are:

- The May 2021 IB examination session will proceed as scheduled.
- We will follow our published school academic calendar and return to school on 14 August 2020 (in some form).
- Our internal IB Deadlines for 2019/20 and 2020/21 will be adhered to.
- The ISK IB Due Dates Google Calendar will continue to be used for all IB summatives and major projects. (Students should not have more than 2 summatives a day). Learning targets, lessons, and materials will continue to be posted on Google Classroom.

1. Will there be semester-end exams this semester two of 2019-20? Will the students just receive average scores from their work throughout the year? Will these results be used for predicted grades for universities?

- a. This June, we will not have the traditional 4 day final assessment block with 2 exams per day. Some departments will set a conventional final exam paper (for example, mathematics) and others will have final summative assessments/projects that will take place during normal class time.
- b. Teachers use a variety of assessment tasks to inform instruction, improve learning, and report on student achievement.
- c. According to the IB, "a predicted grade should be based on all the evidence of the candidate's work and the teacher's knowledge of IB standards". The calculation of our predicted grades for universities is based on data of all the assessments/grades of each student together with the teacher's professional judgement.

2. Is the extended essay (EE) still a requirement? What is the school doing to help the extended essay students?

- a. The extended essay is still a requirement of the IB diploma. All EE students have been allocated supervisors and are working to a shared timeline that has been communicated to all May 2021 candidates.
- b. The HS Librarian, Ms Kris Yoho, is available to help students on how to visit/access the ISK Library website, primary research and finding sources, and accessing JSTOR.

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Ms Yoho has been in communication with our EE students already with the latest being on Fri April 24th.

3. How do you plan to fulfill the number of HL IB hours? What is the Grade 11 IB course completion strategy? How will the teachers and students be able to complete the plan for the Year 1 syllabi? Will the deadlines for IAs be extended as some of the IAs require data collection which may not be possible in some situations ?

- a. To quote from a recent email from the IB: “The IB is understanding and compassionate about these very difficult times in which face-to-face hours are not being met consistently. The IB will remain flexible during this school year under this current VLE normal. The IB will continue to look at the school's "regular" master schedule to ensure hours are met in non-extenuating circumstances”.
- b. We might have less “class time” during VLE, however the teachers are continuing to cover their units at the normal pace. For the remainder of the semester, HL courses will continue with their Wednesday afternoon sessions on a rotational basis.
- c. Teachers are focusing on the quality of hours and how they are using it to best impact to ensure that they meet the expected IB standards in an online environment. At this time, teachers of lab-based/ fieldwork/ studio work courses are focusing on the content aspects of their courses to ensure that they are on track to complete the IB syllabi and IAs in the two year program. The practical components of the IB courses will be shifted to the next academic year.

4. Will the IB official deadlines still be in place when school resumes in August? Will there be any changes to the final IB exam format and grading criteria? Will the IBO consider extending the timeframe to complete the IB programme for 2021 students? What about college applications and the SAT deadlines?

- a. At this time, we understand that the May 2021 exam session will proceed as scheduled and all deadlines and grading criteria will apply.
- b. SAT exam dates have been added for the Fall (August, September, October, December). According to the College Board, if exams are unable to take place physically, the exams will move online. Registration for 2020/21 will begin on 26 May 2020.
- c. University application deadlines for 2020/21 have not changed.

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5. Has ISK reviewed and amended its VLE programme /platforms/ expectations? How is the efficacy of the VLE being gauged in comparison to other international schools and best practices?

- We continually ask for feedback from students, parents, and teachers to help us understand how our VLE approaches are impacting student, family and teacher experiences, and to provide data on what improvements we might make going forward.
- Our IB faculty and counseling teams are always on hand to help and support our students.
- The principals and IB coordinator continue to monitor, collaborate and contribute to conversations among and channels shared between international schools.

6. Will students still be required to reflect on CAS-related activities during this time period? How can CAS requirements be met at this time?

- The CAS program does not count hours, only the achievement of learning outcomes. The IBO understands that schools' and students may not be in session for a time and thus may not be able to continue with certain CAS activities or may have to modify planned CAS projects and experiences.
- Students can still reflect on how they are keeping physically fit, pursuing creative growth, and staying mentally well during this time.
- The CAS interviews scheduled in early May have been postponed until the beginning of the next academic year.
- Ms Hajee is available in May 2020 to support students with their CAS program and reflections.

Questions raised during the Parent Tea on 14 May 2020:

Question: In a worst case scenario where the Government of Kenya does not allow schools to reopen in the first semester, how will the HS ensure the quality of VLE is at a level where the IB students are not disadvantaged to students in other parts of the world who may not be facing the same disruptions to classroom teaching?

Answer: The IB is in constant contact with schools and is aware of the different and changing situations. They will make appropriate accommodations when and if required.

Question: If the VL continues next year, will the school change the class schedule back to the normal day and increase the number of hours? Why not go back to the normal 8:20am-3:20pm school day for the IB and high school students?



Answer: The afternoon time is intentionally protected for faculty planning time, collaboration, HL extensions (on Wednesday afternoon), individual student meetings, and providing feedback to students; this time also provides time for students to be offline and complete important independent work. For example, faculty have been using this to meet with Grade 11 students to discuss their Internal Assessments. As you may be aware, the VLE takes a lot more time and in order to continue delivering a high quality virtual experience for our students we need to ensure that we provide the necessary time to enable this.

Question: How will the IB Biology and Chemistry candidates fulfill their lab work now and if the VLE continues next year? How are IB subjects like Drama, Art, Music, Science lab work etc delivered effectively through VLE?

Answer: The IB has shared guidance as to how schools should complete coursework assessment remotely due to school closures. For example, for the Biology IA, students should come up with a research question which can be answered using a database (secondary data), simulation, or a modelling task. Challenges are performances (Theatre Solo Performance, Music group and solo performances) - hence these assessments are planned for the final semester of Year 2.

Question: How are art and design tech students going to build their portfolio if we remain in quarantine?

Answer: Design Tech: Aspect 1: CAD: Students can use a range of techniques to create concept models and/or technical drawings. This may include sketches, paper and card modelling, and the use of materials which are available at home. Technical drawings can be hand drawn and then scanned or photographed.

Art: The Comparative study and Process Portfolio can be completed during a period of remote learning. Students will not be penalised if a planned formal exhibition is cancelled or cannot be held. A student who is unable to set up a formal exhibition due to adverse circumstances may instead photograph the resolved artworks they have selected for their exhibition together as a collection.

Question: What information have you received from the IB?

Answer: IB constantly updates their website and communicates with us directly. We have prepared FAQ's for ISK families to help keep track.

Question: When will Predictive scores be out for grade 11.....and how will they be calculated ?? Will there be some considerations given in calculating the predictive scores as they have not been able to attend regular classes and appear in end semester tests?

Answer: The calculation of our predicted grades for universities is based on data of all the assessments/grades of each student together with the teacher's professional judgement. The college predicted grades help students in creating their university list prior to the summer

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break. Teachers will have a chance to change predicted grades at the end of September-end of November depending on when students will be applying to university.

Question: Since the IB EXTENDED ESSAY is not due till February 2021 and our kids have immeasurably pressure on them Aug-Oct due to the VLE (make up extra hours, make up labs, IAs, university applications and essays, TOK essay and presentation, makeup SAT exams/subject tests, etc), PLEASE can ISK change the EE due date to mid December or even January? Have there been any changes in requirements for students who may need primary research for the EE?

Answer: Our ISK IB deadlines are put together carefully and intentionally in collaboration with the entire IB faculty and are designed to help our IB students manage their workload so that deadlines for various assessments are spread throughout the year. The IB deadline of 15 March is the final deadline to upload TOK essays, Groups 1 and 2 written assignments/ written tasks and Extended Essays to the IB. The windows for uploading these assessments are opened ahead of the March deadline to allow schools to manage the uploading process according to the needs of the school. All extended essays can be researched and written based on secondary research, and it is recommended that students avoid including elements of primary research that involve direct physical interaction with others.

Question: Summertime work - students are asking ... is there anything students can do to make up work due to falling behind this year? Or get ahead for next year? Please can teachers plan ahead.

Answer: It is about balance. Teachers are already looking at this and planning. The nature of any work will vary depending on the subject. We anticipate Language students will read a book, music students will be required to practice, etc.

Question: Please can ISK send a comprehensive IB schedule ASAP for the remainder of this year outlining when everything is due in every IB class, topics of the projects and when they are due, and what summatives and exams are being held and when.

Answer: All deadlines are in our Google calendar and Google Classroom. The IB deadlines for May 2021 candidates will be released at the start of next year.

Question: Please can this same IB Q&A session be held with all IB Candidates 11th graders to answer their questions and concerns about IB?

Answer: Grade 11 students have already shared their concerns (through the ASB) and some Grade 11 students presented the concerns at the recent IB faculty meeting. (The counselors and myself met with all the Grade 11 students on Monday 18 May.)

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